

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

These claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the present application.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for controlling a neutron beam, comprising a plurality of columnar prisms (1) that are made of a material having a refractive index of less than 1 for a neutron beam, and are arranged so as to be multi-layered.

2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for controlling a neutron beam according to claim 1, wherein the columnar prisms 1 each have an approximately right-triangle-shaped section, and are three-dimensionally multi-layered such that respective surfaces (1a, 1b, 1c) of the columnar prisms are in parallel to one another.

3. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for controlling a neutron beam according to claim 2, wherein oblique surfaces of the multi-layered columnar prisms are in parallel to one another, and face in the same direction so as to approximately form a triangular prism as a whole.

4. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for controlling a neutron beam according to claim 3, comprising a plurality of said triangular prisms arranged such that oblique surfaces respectively constituting the triangular prism cross each other.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for controlling a neutron beam according to claim 1, wherein the columnar prisms 1 each have an approximately right-triangle-shaped section,

the apparatus for controlling the neutron beam comprises a plurality of horizontal

prism plates (3) each of which includes the columnar prisms horizontally arranged such that respective surfaces (1a, 1b, 1c) of the columnar prisms are in parallel to one another, and the plurality of horizontal prism plates are vertically multi-layered so as to be horizontally turned alternately by 90 degrees.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for controlling a neutron beam according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, comprising a positioning member that sets the plurality of columnar prisms at predetermined positions, respectively.

7. (Previously Presented) A method for manufacturing a neutron beam controlling apparatus, comprising:

forming a plurality of columnar prisms that are made of a material having a refractive index of less than 1 for a neutron beam, and each have an approximately right-triangle-shaped section; and

three-dimensionally multi-layering the plurality of columnar prisms such that respective surfaces of the columnar prisms are in parallel to one another.

8. (Previously Presented) A method for manufacturing a neutron beam controlling apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the forming of the plurality of columnar prisms is performed by any of molding, extruding, cutting, grinding, whetting or any combination thereof.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a neutron beam controlling apparatus according to claim 7, wherein forming the plurality of prisms comprising:

making stick-shaped members (5) of said material;

setting the stick-shaped members (5) in a plurality of grooves formed on a jig (6),  
the grooves having the same shape; and  
flattening upper surfaces of the grooves at the same time.

10. (Previously Presented) A method for manufacturing a neutron beam controlling apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the flattening of the upper surfaces of the grooves is performed by ELID grinding.

11. (Previously Presented) A method for manufacturing a neutron beam controlling apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the flattening of the upper surfaces of the grooves is performed by a straight grinding wheel, a cup grinding wheel or a lap.